

## Message Text

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12

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-15 IO-10 AID-05 /089 W

----- 034490

R 291038Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1424

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

UNCLAS LUSAKA 562

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, RH, ZA

SUBJECT: ZAMBIA DETAINS ZIMBABWE NATIONALISTS

1. "SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF ZIMBABWE NATIONALIST LEADERS HAVE BEEN  
ROUNDED UP FOR INTERROGATION IN CONNECTION WITH CHITEPO MURDER,  
MIN HOME AFFAIRS MILNER ANNOUNCED AT MARCH 28 PRESS CONFERENCE.  
MILNER DECLINED TO NAME THOSE BEING HELD BUT, ACCORDING TO TODAY'S  
PRESS, MOST ARE BELIEVED TO BE FROM CHITEPO'S ORGANIZATION, ZANU,  
AND LIBERATION SOURCES PUT NUMBER AT 70 OR MORE. ROUNDUP REPORTEDLY  
TOOK PLACE MARCH 23, THE DAY AFTER CHITEPO'S FUNERAL. MILNER SAID,  
IN ADDITION TO CHITEPO CASE, POLICE ALSO INVESTIGATING ALLEGATIONS  
OTHER ZIMBABWE NATIONALISTS HAVE BEEN "LIQUIDATED" IN ZAMBIA. HE  
STATED ZANU, ZAPU AND FROLIZI OFFICES IN LUSAKA WILL BE CLOSED  
AND THEIR REGISTRATIONS CANCELLED. (ZANU OFFICE HAS IN FACT BEEN  
CLOSED FOR AT LEAST A WEEK). ONLY ANCE WOULD BE PERMITTED TO  
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OPERATE IN ZAMBIA.

2. ASKED TO COMMENT ON ZANU CLAIM THAT IAN SMITH'S AGENTS WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR CHITEPO'S DEATH, MILNER SAID: "ONE CANNOT SAY IT WAS NOT SMITH'S AGENTS. ONE CANNOT SAY IT WAS NOT ZANU."

3. TIMES OF ZAMBIA THIS MORNING REPORTS ZANU SEC GEN ROBERT MUGABE SAID IN SALISBURY YESTERDAY THAT IF ZANU MEMBERS DETAINED WERE ALL EFFECTIVE MEMBERS OF ZANU'S MILITARY WING, "THEN THE SITUATION IS VERY SERIOUS." MUGABE WAS COMMENTING ON ASSERTIONS BY ZANU STOCKHOLM REP CLAUDE CHOKWENDA THAT THOSE DETAINED INCLUDED SEVEN MEMBERS OF ORGANIZATION'S SUPREME COUNCIL AND MANY MILITARY COMMANDERS. ACCORDING TO BBC THIS MORNING, ANC'S EDSON SITHOLE ALSO CONDEMNED THE GRZ ACTION.

4. GRZ-OWNED DAILY MAIL EDITORIAL MARCH 29 IS DEVOTED TO JUSTIFICATION

OF MILNER ACTION. PAPER WAS "SHOCKED" BY FIGHTING AMONG LUSAKA-BASED ZIMBABWEAN NATIONALISTS AND BY ATTEMPTS OF SOME TO UNDERMINE THE DECEMBER UNITS ACCORD. ZAMBIAN HOSPITALITY WAS BEING ABUSED; SOME PEOPLE WITH GRANDOISE PERSONAL AIMS WERE A LAW UNTO THEMSELVES. ZAMBIA HAS DUTY TO TRACK DOWN CHITEPO MURDERERS. THE DETENTIONS WILL BE RECEIVED WITH MIXED FEELINGS, BUT ZAMBIANS SHOULD NOT WORRY ABOUT "NOISES FROM CERTAIN QUARTERS" AT HOME AND ABROAD; THOSE NOISES WILL COME FROM PERSONS WHO STOOD TO GAIN BY CHITEPO'S DEATH, THE PAPER CONCLUDED.

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